

REMARKS

Claim Rejections Under § 102

Paragraph 4 of the Action rejects claims 28-34 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being unpatentable in view of Mayle (U.S. Patent 6,018,774). In order to speed the issuance of the remaining claims, claims 28-34 have been cancelled by the above amendments thereby rendering the rejection moot as to these claims. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn as to cancelled claims 28-34.

E

CONCLUSION

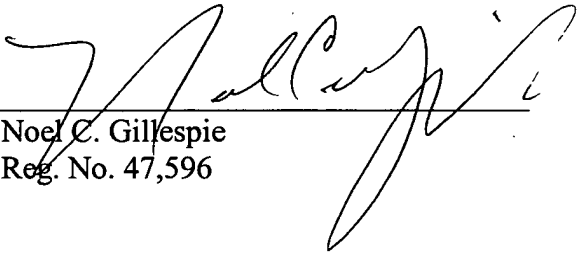
Based on the above amendments and remarks, Applicants believe that the claims are in condition for allowance and such is respectfully requested.

After the above Amendments, claims 1-7, 9-13, 15, 16, 25, and 26 are pending and the Action indicates that these claims are allowable over the art of record. No fee in connection with the filing of this Amendment is believed to be due; however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees required by this response to our Deposit Account No. 50-2613 (Order No. 45098.00007.UTL).

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